
****BIG NEWS!** PSC Dismisses Consulting Firm!**

Natalie Olson <natalie@cvsc.org>
Reply-To: natalie@cvsc.org
To: John Tynan <john@cvsc.org>

Wed, Aug 7, 2019 at 5:33 PM



John,

BIG NEWS – The SC Public Service Commission just voted to **cancel** the contract with Pegasus-Global Holdings! They heard the message loud and clear: we won't accept business as usual at the PSC.

I alerted folks in my email yesterday about our Freedom of Information Act request, which we submitted to shed light on this PSC decision-making process. That email is below, with some other links to get you up to speed on the latest.

So here's what happened today: The PSC met today to discuss their recent contract with Pegasus-Global Holdings. The Energy Freedom Act instructs the PSC to hire a "qualified independent third party" consultant to advise them on their cases – the first being avoided cost, which simply means the incremental cost of energy in the market. An artificially low price set by the PSC means no solar for South Carolinians.

Last week, *behind closed doors*, the PSC chose a utility-friendly consultant (Pegasus) riddled with conflicts of interest – but today, they corrected their mistake, and fired Pegasus!

In response to objections from legislators, parties in the case, and the public, the Commissioners explained today that Pegasus failed to disclose that they were paid \$3 million by Duke Energy, among other omissions of fact, and that was clearly cause for termination.

The Commissioners openly said the Pegasus selection was a mistake and they should not have conducted the vetting behind closed doors.

They also highlighted the importance of making good decisions and being transparent and accountable to the public.

So, they decided on a new procedure to vet future candidates to go along with the Pegasus dismissal. This time, they will issue public notice of the potential consultant candidates and give the public opportunity to submit questions for the candidates at their interview.

This is huge – the commissioners who voted in favor of this motion, especially Commissioners Ervin and Williams, showed us to today that they can be held accountable. It showed they are taking the Energy Freedom Act seriously, their decisions seriously, and public trust seriously – but this is only the beginning.

The proceedings over the coming months will reveal whether the Commission deserves our trust. We need to keep a close eye on their decision-making and our Freedom of Information Act request will help us do that – but we can't do it without you.

[*Sign up here for updates on the PSC and we will keep you in the know.*](#)

With gratitude,



Natalie Olson
Campaigns Director



John,

Yeah, we can't believe it either. The Public Service Commission selected a utility-friendly consultant, Pegasus-Global, to handle its next round of cost analysis that could determine your future rates and the 'cost' (price) of clean energy. I'm not sure how they qualify as an independent consultant, as required by law, but I am sure that I hear

echoes of the VC Summer debacle - and it sounds like a fox guarding the hen house.

We've taken steps to do something about it, but first, you can [read the latest from the Post and Courier here](#).

You can also catch up on what we've been up to by [reading John's blog here](#).

As the saying goes, knowledge is power. We'd like to know how the PSC came to this decision and why there was no justification given to the public. So, we just submitted a request for all information related to the selection of Pegasus on these clean energy proceedings under the Freedom of Information Act, called a FOIA request.

CVSC does not often submit FOIA requests. We reserve the use of this tool for only when absolutely necessary. And we consider it necessary when decisions are being made that will affect the future of solar energy with no public discussion. We asked about the selection process, who participated in these decisions, and how they evaluated the conflicts of interest and qualifications of Pegasus.

The PSC is responsible for implementing the Energy Freedom Act, in which, virtually every section discusses public interest and protecting customers. With billions pulled from the pockets of South Carolinians to pay for a nuclear plant that will never power a *single* light bulb, we expect the Public Service Commission to be transparent and accountable to ratepayers in all of their decisions - which is why we are shedding light on this situation.

Our partners have been busy, too. If you read [the Post and Courier article](#), you know they called on the PSC to disqualify Pegasus because of their apparent conflicts of interest. Choosing Pegasus is so bewildering because its CEO served on the Board of SCANA only 6 months ago. As if that weren't already suspicious enough, Duke Energy paid Pegasus \$3 million to defend a multi-billion power plant project in recent years.

We do know there's a meeting set this Wednesday for the PSC to discuss the agreement with Pegasus.

While the agenda doesn't give much more detail than that, the calls from legislators and participants in the case calling for the dismissal of Pegasus are a step in the right direction. We just hope the PSC wakes up and hears the call.

The Public Service Commission and their decisions are shaping up to

be more and more influential and we want you to stay in the know. **Sign up** for our exclusive PSC email list and we will send you PSC specific updates bi-weekly, or as soon as important developments (like Wednesday's discussion about the Pegasus contract) come to light.

Sign up for email updates and stay tuned for more information... this story is still developing.

Thanks in advance,



Natalie Olson
Campaigns Director

Connect with us



Mail: CVSC
701 Whaley Street
Columbia, SC 29201
United States

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please
[unsubscribe](#)